

A NEW FOSSIL WEEVIL FROM NEVADA
(COLEOPTERA: CURCULIONIDAE)

The fossil specimen upon which the following description is based was submitted to the author by Mr. Douglas Macdonald via Drs. Theodore Downes and Charles Hogue of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. The specimen was so well preserved that it could be determined to genus on sight. This find is significant in several ways. It represents the first fossil snoutbeetle from Nevada. It is the first fossil of the genus *Rhyncolus* and the first representative of the tribe Rhyncolini of the subfamily Cossoninae known from North America (Scudder 1893, and 1900.)

The author wishes to thank Drs. Downes and Hogue for their assistance and Mr. Macdonald for bringing this find to my attention. The species is named for the daughter of Mr. Macdonald. The photographs are courtesy of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. The figures in parentheses indicate the ratios of width to length, respectively.

Rhyncolus kathrynae, Sleeper new species
Figures 1 and 2

Holotype: Nevada, Fernley (on Sam Swarz Ranch). Fossil, dorsum and sides exposed. Pliocene: Hemphillian, Venturian-Hazen Flora (of Axelrod). Holotype in the Entomological Collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History.

Length 4.0 mm, width 1.3 mm. Rostrum short and broad (1.5:3.25), dorsal profile slightly convex (Fig. 1), very finely punctate. Scrobes and antennae not visible. Head very finely punctate, the punctures scarcely impressed. Eyes very small, circular and finely granulate. Prothorax (Fig. 2) slightly longer than wide (3.0:3.25), sides evenly rounded to apical constriction, the latter very feeble, disc flat, very finely punctate (about one-half the size of those of *brunneus*), punctures separated by three-fourths their diameter, intervals between punctures alutaceous. Scutellum as in other *Rhyncolus*. Elytra about two-fifths as wide as long (3.5:8.0), sides feebly convergent in apical three-fourths, then strongly rounded; disc with feebly impressed striae and striae punctures; punctures twice the size of those of prothorax, first striae deeply impressed in basal third; the intervals rather flattened, not

convex; interval nine strongly carinate at the humeri. Apex of the elytra not completely visible. Venter with only the right one-third of the metasternum visible. Metasternum very closely, deeply punctate, the punctures slightly larger than those of the prothorax and separated by one-half their diameter.



1



2

Figure 1. Right side view of holotype of *Rhyncolus kathrynae*.

Figure 2. Dorsal view of holotype of *R. kathrynae*. Line = 1 mm.

Discussion: This species is closely related to the present *R. brunneus* Mannerheim (occurring in *Pinus ponderosa* and *P. jeffreyi*), but differs from that species by the shorter rostrum (in *brunneus* as long as broad not including mandibles); the punctures of the prothoracic disc much smaller, the pronounced alutaceous intervals, and the flatter elytral intervals (in *brunneus* feebly convex.)

The holotype is in place in a burrow in a small branch of fossilized *Pinus* perhaps *florrisanti*. Adjacent to the holotype are other burrows of this species and those of a species of Cerambycidae. The holotype was partly in the bark of the branch, indicating that it died as it was in the process of burrowing out of the host plant.

LITERATURE CITED

- Scudder S. H., 1893. Tertiary Rhynchophorus Coleoptera of the United States. *U.S. Geological Survey Monographs*. 21, 206 p.
1900. Canadian Fossil Insects. *Contributions to Canad. Paleontology* II, pt. 2. Ottawa. 50 p.
- Elbert L. Sleeper*, Department of Biology, California State College at Long Beach, Long Beach, California.

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